



MALCOLM GOODRIDGE, M.D.

1873-1956

ON July 16, 1956, there passed away one of the impressive figures in the history and the life of The New York Academy of Medicine. Malcolm Goodridge epitomized in his career the great physician, the lucid teacher and expositor and the dynamic public spirited citizen. Born in Flushing, N. Y., educated at Princeton and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, his early professional career was beset with illness which he overcame with the same courage and stamina which he later applied to the problems of the Academy. Deprived of an internship because of illness, he early became associated with St. Luke's Hospital and then with Bellevue Hospital where he displayed his unusual talents as a teacher of clinical medicine. Four decades of medical students and house officers look back on his teaching as an exciting and stimulating experience. New York Hospital, where he taught in his later years, honored him by electing him an Honorary Governor.

Dr. Goodridge's association with the Academy of Medicine began fifty years ago with his election to Fellowship in 1906. The list of his services is a long one. He was a member of the Committee on Public Health Relations for eleven years and was Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Activities. As President of the Academy for four years, he shouldered the heavy responsibilities of the pre-war and early war years of 1939 to 1942. He then served wisely and sagaciously as a Trustee during the financially perilous post-war years to 1947. The Academy made him an Honorary Fellow in 1949 and an Honorary Member of the Trustees and Council in 1952. For all these distinguished services he was awarded, on January fifth, 1956, the Academy Plaque.

However, Dr. Goodridge's crowning contribution to the life of the Academy was his Chairmanship for more than four years of the Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order. The balance and soundness of the Report of this Committee, as well as its breadth and depth, was due in greatest part to the tact, the discernment, vision and wisdom of Malcolm Goodridge. It stands as a monument to the man who engineered it through times of sharp disagreement, past the pitfalls of minutiae and chauvinistic attitudes.

To those who carry on the torch he so valiantly bore, the life and career of Malcolm Goodridge stand as a shining example of courage, integrity and devotion to an institution which he knew represented the best in medicine. He will be sorely missed.

HOWARD REID CRAIG